concerned authorities are not taking serious action on these representations and are giving assurances only to the residents that proper supply would be ensured in the near future; and

(d) whether Government would take stringent action against the officials of the Jal Nigam so that residents could get proper drinking water and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has reported that no such representation is available in their office record.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam reported that Bara water supply scheme is being maintained by the Garhwal Jal Santha, since 1990 and the same agency is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the drinking water scheme.

Special Package for SEBs

2950. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged the Prime Minister to ask the Ministry of Power to evolve a special package for the State Electricity Boards regarding ongoing projects languishing for want of funds;

(b) whether the fast deteriorating power situation, mounting losses being incurred by these State Electricity Boards and non-implementation of the private sector participation was the biggest singular threat to the country's economic development; and

(c) if so, whether any concrete measures have been suggested by the Prime Minister to evolve a new package for power sector; if so, by when the same is likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) There has been a general debate in various fora in the country about the Power Sector including unsustainable losses being incurred by the State Electricity Boards, the shortages of resources to complete the ongoing power projects and the progress of private sector participation. A Chief Ministers' Conference was held recently to evolve a Common Minimum National Action Plan for the power sector. Based on the suggestions made in the Conference, the Action Plan is being finalised in the Ministry of Power.

Task Force for Wasteland Development

2951. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Wasteland Development Task Force (WDTF) for regeneration of inaccessible and inhospitable wastelands in the country, through afforestation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the WDTF has been constituted in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) have constituted a Wasteland Development Task Force (WDTF) for Development of non-forest wastelands in the inhospitable and inaccessible ravines in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh through afforestation including soil and moisture conservation measures. With the approval of the Ministry of Defence, WDTF of 300 ex-servicemen is to work under the command of the Territorial Army Directorate. The State Government has made available about 1100 ha. of ravinous wastelands for development by the said Force over a period of 3 years. The total cost for development of they project area is expected to be about Rs. 3.75 crores out of which only a small amount towards planting and fencing material is to be borne by the State